

## GATHERING



Matt MacAulay, second from left holding his daughter Lennon, is joined by his wife Tiffany MacAulay, from left, and parent Terri and Scott MacAulay as they hosted the members of the Clan MacAulay Association at the Inverary resort in Baddeck in 2018. Next month, the Clan MacAulay Association returns to Baddeck where it will hold its first-ever international gathering outside of the United Kingdom. "There's going to be probably 150 or 175 MacAulays from around the world staying in Baddeck and area and getting to know some local folks and meeting other clan members from around the world and exploring the island," he said. **MATT MACAULAY**

# Call of the MacAulays

People from around the world with shared surname heading to Baddeck

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**BADDECK** — People from around the world will converge on Cape Breton next month when the Clan MacAulay Association holds its first-ever international gathering outside of the United Kingdom.

And while they all share the same surname, the spellings vary from the typical MacAulay, MacAuley, McAulay and McCauley to McCawley, McCauley, McCully and even McCall.

With its strong Scottish roots, Cape Breton was a natural choice for the event and so was the host venue. The event, which runs from Aug. 7-10, will take place at the Inverary Resort, which has been operated by three generations of MacAulays.

Current innkeeper Matt MacAulay first heard of the Clan MacAulay Association in 2016 when Bud MacAulay Lush, the group's honorary chieftain and high commissioner of the Canadas, stayed at the Inverary Resort. Two years later, the Clan MacAulay Association held one of its smaller gatherings at the Inverary and Matt MacAulay became the association's commissioner for Atlantic Canada.

"There's going to be probably 150 or 175 MacAulays from around the world staying in Baddeck and area and getting to know some local folks and meeting other clan members from around the world and exploring the island," he said.

"It seems to be a relatively small clan globally, the MacAulays, but there is a concentration here in the Maritimes. I know P.E.I. has a significant concentration and then Cape Breton so it's quite interesting and particularly some of the folks that we've spoken with that aren't from here are very curious about that."

## MACAULAYS IN ITALY

Bob Macauley is travelling from St. Louis, Mo., to attend the gathering.

The son of NBA hall of famer "Easy



Bob Macauley is travelling from St. Louis, Mo., to attend the first-ever Clan MacAulay Association international gathering in Baddeck. **BOB MACAULAY**

Ed" Macauley began exploring his Scottish roots when his father died in 2011.

"When he died, we all decided, 'Hey, let's do a little bit of digging on

the history of our family.' And my daughter had gone to Scotland and she brought back one of those red circular stamps that had the MacAulay crest on it. So that caused us to dig

further, which caused us to go out on the web, which caused us to find this thing called Clan MacAulay. It's like 15 bucks to become a member and we thought we'll learn more about the MacAulay family. So we did that and then we went to the event in Oban, Scotland, and found out we really enjoyed that. And then I got recruited to be on the executive committee," said Macauley, who has since met people who share his last name, or some variation of it, from all over the world, including the 2018 event in Baddeck.

"We've got MacAulays in Italy and believe it or not, they play the bagpipes. I mean, it's hysterical. Four years ago, they came in full kilts and everything. They're Italian but they play the pipes and do all the Scottish music," he said with a laugh.

"Interestingly enough, what happens is when you meet these people you're naturally drawn to them because of their name and the relationships that are built through this are amazing. We become very, very good friends with people all around the world. And one of the things that the clan does is we host events on Zoom, whether it be a Saint Patrick's Day event or a Robbie Burns dinner.

"We really do feel like a family even though we're not necessarily directly family connected.

Meanwhile, Matt MacAulay's guests will have plenty of activities to choose from during the gathering, including the Heavy(ish) Games in which participants test their mettle in semi-traditional, often-comical versions of traditional Scottish competitions, including the caber toss, hammer throw and haggis hurling, DNA and genealogy sessions in which people can delve into their MacAulay history, and excursions to the Highland Village and Gaelic College, as well as opportunities to explore the iconic Cabot Trail and the world-renowned Fortress of Louisbourg before the gathering closes with a Cape Breton ceilidh.

"There's a pretty neat itinerary and all kinds of different things planned," he said.